

REMARKS

Responsive to the communication mailed January 30, 2008, applicants hereby provisionally elect a polymer with non-polymeric chains, with traverse. As to the election requirement pertaining to claims 16 and 17, applicants elect the complex matrix without these agents, with traverse. Indeed, claims 16 and 17 are depending claims reciting preferred embodiments. In this regard, applicants believe that claims 12-15 and claims 20-22 and 30-31 read on the elected species.

Applicants believe that the requirement is improper for the same reasons set forth in the response of November 26, 2007. In addition, applicants believe that the additional requirement in the communication mailed January 30, 2008 is improper in that both polymers of natural origin of small size and non-polymeric chains have antioxidant properties or properties for inhibiting reaction of degradation of the matrix (see present specification, page 8, line 12-17).

When taking this into consideration and the fact that the claimed invention is directed to a complex matrix and not a single polymer, applicants respectfully submit that the requirement is improper. As to the requirement pertaining to claims 16 and 17, applicants note that these recitations are merely preferred embodiments recited in a dependent claim. A

search and examination of these embodiments fails to place an undue burden on the Patent Office.

Thus, in view of the above and the comments set forth in the response of November 26, 2007, applicants respectfully request a search and examination of all the claims in their full scope.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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